



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV31

Site Name: Hallowing Point Middle

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

shell midden, Late Woodland village, possible Colonial site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.5099

Longitude -76.6567

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6-10 m

Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

| Projectile Point Types | | Koens-Crispin | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Clovis | <input type="checkbox"/> | Perkiomen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hardaway-Dalton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Susquehana | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Palmer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vernon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kirk (notch) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Piscataway | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kirk (stem) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calvert | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Le Croy | <input type="checkbox"/> | Selby Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Morrow Mntn | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jacks Rf (notch) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Guilford | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jacks Rf (pent) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brewerton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Madison/Potomac | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Otter Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Levanna | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prehistoric Sherd Types

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Marcey Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Popes Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shepard | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keyser | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dames Qtr | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Coulbourn | <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsend | <input type="checkbox"/> 288 | Yeocomico | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Selden Island | <input type="checkbox"/> | Watson | <input type="checkbox"/> | Minguannan | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monongahela | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Accokeek | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Mockley | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Sullivan Cove | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Susquehannock | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wolfe Neck | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Clemson Island | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shenks Ferry | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Vinette | <input type="checkbox"/> | Page | <input type="checkbox"/> | Moyaone | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | | | | Potomac Crk | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Historic Sherd Types

| Earthenware | | Ironstone | | Staffordshire | | Stoneware | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Astbury | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jackfield | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tin Glazed | <input type="checkbox"/> | English Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mn Mottled | <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiteware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Eng Dry-bodied | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buckley | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | North Devon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Porcelain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nottingham | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Creamware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pearlware | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | Rhenish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | | | Wt Salt-glazed | <input type="checkbox"/> |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

| Prehistoric Artifacts | | Other fired clay | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Flaked stone | <input type="checkbox"/> 682 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ground stone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Modified faunal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stone bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unmod faunal | <input type="checkbox"/> 201 |
| Fire-cracked rock | <input type="checkbox"/> 149 | Oyster shell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other lithics (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> 244 | Uncommon Obj. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rimsherds | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prehistoric Features

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mound(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Storage/trash pit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Midden | <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shell midden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ossuary | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Postholes/molds | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| House pattern(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Palisade(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Hearth(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Lithic reduc area | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Lithic Material

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Jasper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fer quartzite | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sil sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chert | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Chalcedony | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | European flint | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rhyolite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ironstone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Basalt | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Argilite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartzite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Steatite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Dated features present at site

| Historic Artifacts | | Tobacco related | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Pottery (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Activity item(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Glass (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | <input type="checkbox"/> 43 | Faunal material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Arms | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| Personal items | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Historic Features

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Const feature | <input type="checkbox"/> | Privy/outhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression/mound | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Well/cistern | <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar hole/cellar | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trash pit/dump | <input type="checkbox"/> | Railroad bed | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Hearth/chimney | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sheet midden | <input type="checkbox"/> | Earthworks | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Postholes/molds | <input type="checkbox"/> | Planting feature | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mill raceway | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Paling ditch/fence | <input type="checkbox"/> | Road/walkway | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wheel pit | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Brief

Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Hallowing Point Site (18CV31) is a multi-component, prehistoric shell midden along the Patuxent River west of Prince Frederick in Calvert County. The site is situated on the floodplains opposite Benedict, Maryland, land that is a mixture of residential homes, cultivated fields, and wooded areas. The site is at the upper limits of brackish water where extensive oyster beds are located. Shoreline marshes and waterfowl are plentiful in this reach of the Patuxent Basin. A half-mile of nearly continuous prehistoric oyster shell midden stretches along this portion of the river, with 18CV31 being the centermost section of midden. At 18CV31, some evidence also points to the presence of an early-mid 18th century occupation at the site. Soils at the site are primarily Hambrook fine sandy loams and Woodstown sandy loams.

The explorer John Smith described Indian Villages on both banks of the Patuxent River in 1607. Subsequent documentation of prehistoric sites in the lower Patuxent River was not until two centuries later when J.T. Ducatel (Maryland State Geologist) indicated in 1836 the presence of thick shell middens in the Hallowing Point locale.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Richard E. Stearns, an avocational archeologist explored the Patuxent River basin looking for prehistoric sites through visual and surface survey. Stearns made several excursions by boat to the Patuxent River investigating the banks and shorelines, collecting from the surface of cultivated fields and from the riverbanks. Stearns recorded the Hallowing Point Site and described the middens of the area as extensive, covering many acres. Stearns also noted that in the 19th century a large number of the prehistoric shell middens, greater than 61 cm (2 ft) thick along the river had been removed for lime and fertilizer. A collection made by Stearns from 18CV31 was eventually donated to the Smithsonian Institution. A catalog of that collection made in 1980 lists 1 Calvert point, 3 Mockley net-impressed sherds, 15 Rappahannock fabric-impressed sherds, 3 Rappahannock Incised sherds, and 2 Sullivan Cove sherds.

Major archeological work was carried out at the site in the early 1980s as major residential development was taking place in the vicinity. The construction of the Patuxent Heights residential development prompted research by the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE). In 1981 a Phase I survey was carried out on a lot known as the "Riley Property". The property included a 30.5 m (100 ft) wide riverfront property where shoreline repairs were planned. Planned work on the shoreline included construction of a bulkhead and grading of the bank of the Patuxent River. This work would require granting of US Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Permits, which triggered compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act, both of which required consideration of cultural resource.

Archeological work in 1981 was carried out by personnel with the US Army COE and several volunteers from the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). When researchers arrived at the site, they found that most of the turf and lower portion of the A Horizon had recently been removed and placed in two large backdirt piles covered with shell on adjacent properties. The entire 60.8 m (200 ft) deep by 30.4 m (100 ft) wide lot had been graded for construction with the exception of a 2 to 3 meter strip left undisturbed and intact at the edge of the river bank. Beneath the turf and plowzone, remnants of Late Woodland, Early Woodland, and a potential Late Archaic occupation were observed.

The graded ground surface was walked and examined for surface artifacts. Both diagnostics and debitage were collected from the exposed surfaces and upper portions of the backdirt piles. Nine test units were then dug in the undisturbed 2-3 m strip at the edge of the river bank. Seven test units were 70 X 70 cm in extent and were excavated in 10 cm levels, using shovels and trowels, to a depth of 40 cm. The other two test units were 1 X 1 m in extent and were excavated to a depth of 90 cm. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth.

The 1981 testing revealed pockets of intact shell midden 15 to 20 cm in thickness which was buried 15 to 20 cm below the modern ground surface. The base of the shell midden contained whole shell valves which were compacted and intact. The present A2 surface soil horizon of the eroding bank above the shell midden appears to have been previously cultivated. A large quantity of ceramic, lithic implements, flakes, and bone artifacts were recovered reflective of procurement and processing activities. The shell midden itself was the only prehistoric feature found in 1981. No historic features were identified.

Artifacts recovered from 18CV31 included 42 historic artifacts and 817 prehistoric artifacts. The historic assemblage included a strike-a-light, a plastic barrette, 3 square nails, 22 wire nails, 2 black-glazed earthenware sherds, 1 black bottle glass fragment, a soda bottle cap, 2 pipe stems (5/64th diameter), a European gunflint, and 8 modern glass fragments. Among the prehistoric artifacts were 214 ceramic sherds, 2 projectile points, 3 other bifaces, 1 thumbnail scraper, 6 scrapers, 451 flakes, 5 hammerstones, at least 34 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 132 bone fragments, and 3 carbonized materials. Diagnostic prehistoric materials were a Bare Island point, a Madison point, 1 Dames Quarter sherd, 4 Accokeek cord-marked sherds, 4 Wolfe Neck sherds, 9 Rappahannock plain sherds, 39 Rappahannock incised sherds (3 rims), 73 Rappahannock fabric-impressed sherds (1 rim), 20 Townsend incised sherds, 2 Townsend corded sherds, 6 Sullivan Cove sherds (1 rim), and 56 fragmented sherds.

In 1983, additional research was carried out at 18CV31. This time, shoreline improvements were to be carried out on a lot adjacent to the Riley property: the Pelagatti property. Again, US Army COE permits would be required and archeological work was called for, prior to additional construction of the Patuxent Heights homes. Initially, the plan for the 1983 excavations on the lot were based on the assumption that the soils of the Pelagatti property would be intact. Unfortunately, initial surface reconnaissance in 1983 revealed that a major part of the Pelagatti property had been severely disturbed by earthmoving operations. Interviews with local informants revealed that the developer of the Patuxent Heights community had graded much of the area in the early 1970s and recent work in preparation for the shoreline improvements had further disturbed the majority of the remaining portions of the property. Only a six meter square area in the northeast corner of the Pelagatti property was left undisturbed. Thus, original plans had to be significantly altered.

It was determined that efforts would focus on the remaining undisturbed portion of the Pelagatti property, even though some of this area was actually to the east of the impact area for the shoreline improvements. A total of six 2 X 1 m test units were excavated, along with two rows of shovel test pits (STPs) at 3 meter intervals between the eroding riverbank and a nearby road. One of these STP rows was intentionally established in the northernmost portion of the lot in order to recover additional data within the disturbed area that was to have been investigated adjacent to the riverbank. This strategy provided for the investigation of an 11% sample of the area contained within 3 sampling strata. It should be emphasized, however, that this strategy resulted in the investigation of an arbitrarily defined corner of an arbitrarily defined lot, and was not a systematic (i.e. representative) sample of the site as a whole. The manner of the development of the Patuxent Heights community largely prevented any systematic research of the entire cultural resource.



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The excavation of STPs was accomplished through the removal of topsoil with only limited consideration placed on stratigraphic context. Excavation of the 2 X 1 m test units proceeded in 10 cm arbitrary levels within each of the identifiable natural and cultural strata. Though all test units were excavated below the depth of the last artifact recovered, only 3 of the 6 units were excavated to a depth of 1.2 meters, the deepest possible cultural level due to edaphic conditions. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Also, soil samples were retained for chemical and physical analysis from each natural or cultural stratum revealed through the excavation of the 2 X 1 m test units, as was a two liter sample for water screening.

The 1983 excavations recovered evidence that this portion of the site had been occupied at various periods of time including the Early and Late Woodland periods, and during the middle to late 18th century. Evidence of modern cultural activity was also found. Prehistoric data included lithic artifacts, ceramics, and some animal bone. In general, these items indicate that aboriginal peoples inhabiting this site were engaged in hunting and gathering activities. The latter consisted primarily of the exploitation of the oyster resources of the adjacent Patuxent River, though a considerable amount of floral gathering undoubtedly took place (and is less well documented). Insufficient data, however, were recovered to determine the exact nature of the occupations or to specify the exact seasons of occupation.

The artifact assemblage from the 1983 excavations at 18CV31 included 1 Meadowood point base, 2 triangular point bases, 206 fragments of debitage, 115 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 98 pieces of animal bone, 139 ceramic sherds (5 Accokeek, 127 Townsend, 7 other), and 23 historic artifacts (2 wrought nails, 16 brick fragments, 2 Buckley sherds, 1 yellow-slipped earthenware sherd, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, and a clear lead-crystal table glass fragment).

A chemical analysis of the 1983 soil samples conducted by the Department of Plant Science at the University of Delaware served largely to document the effects of oyster shell decomposition at 18CV31.

Shortly after completion of the major 1983 excavations on the Pelagatti property, a field visit by Army COE personnel revealed that the entire lot had been graded. Shell was exposed over the entire graded surface and on several large backdirt piles. Two biface fragments, 3 quartz flakes, 2 quartz fragments, and 7 prehistoric sherds were collected from the graded surface. A visit was also made to the Riley property and two upstream lots with exposed banks were checked. No cultural material was found on the beach or bank face at the two upstream lots, but troweling of the bank face, shell midden, and fallen bank face soils on the beach at the Riley property revealed 2 pieces of quartz debitage. A 30 cm cubic STP was also dug on the Riley shoreline, but produced no additional materials.

In 1988, a faunal analysis was carried out on animal bones recovered during the 1981 and 1983 excavations at 18CV31. A total of 201 bone fragments were examined, most of which were heavily eroded. Identifiable bones included 14 white tailed deer, 1 rabbit, 3 box turtle, 152 large mammal bones, 5 medium mammal bones, 9 bird bones, 2 turtle bones, and 1 fish bone. Fourteen of the animal bones were unidentifiable. With such a small number of fragments present and the low number of identified specimens there are few interpretations possible from this sample. The eroded nature of the bones indicates an unstable depositional environment. It can be assumed that much of the originally deposited animal bone has completely disintegrated.

Test excavations conducted on portions of 18CV31 indicated that there were portions of shell midden (soil with shell) immediately below the grass cover as late as the early 1980s. In areas of higher elevation some plowzone remnants appeared to be over the shell midden layer. Also there appeared to be an artifact bearing layer of sandy soil intact below the shell stratum in some areas of the site. Unfortunately, work concentrated entirely on properties needing shoreline control construction and the actual site dimensions were never determined. Satellite imagery of the site today reveals extensive residential development. It is highly unlikely that intact archeological deposits remain at 18CV31.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000249, 00000233, 00000234, 00000251